

Agenda Date: 2/1/06

Agenda Item: VIIB



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

Customer Assistance

IN THE MATTER OF JACQUELINE
GONZALEZ, PETITIONER v. JERSEY
CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,
RESPONDENT

ORDER ADOPTING
INITIAL DECISION

BPU Docket No. EC05040347U
OAL Docket No. PUC 4998-05

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On April 25, 2005, Jacqueline Gonzalez (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) for a hearing in regard to a billing dispute with Jersey Central Power and Light Co. (Respondent).

On June 16, 2005, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Patricia M. Kerins.

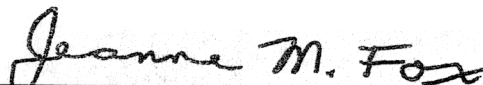
During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and reached a settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On December 22, 2005, ALJ Kerins filed her Initial Decision with the Board, memorializing the terms of the settlement and recommending that it be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

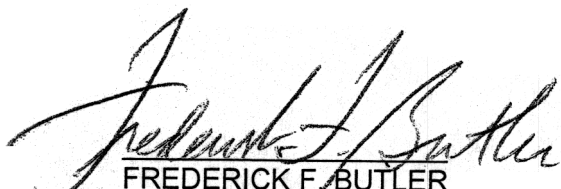
Under the terms of the settlement, Petitioner will apply for the statewide Universal Service Fund Program, and provided she pays current basic charges in full for 12 months (minus any energy assistance benefits she receives), the current amount past due and owing, \$2,019.38, will be deemed paid in full.

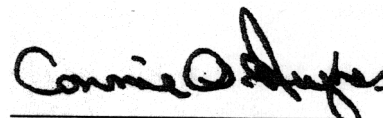
After review, the Board FINDS that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 2/2/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT


FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

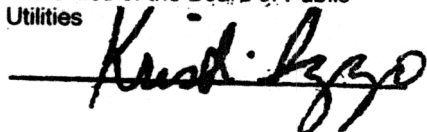

CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities



Jacqueline Gonzalez v. Jersey Central Power and Light Co.

BPU Docket No. EC05040347U
OAL Dkt. No. PUC 4998-05

SERVICE LIST

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CMS
RESLOW
RPA
SLUTSKY, J
HILARIO, P
STARK ②



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 4998-05

AGENCY DKT. NO. EC05040347U

JACQUELINE GONZALEZ,

Petitioner,

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND

LIGHT COMPANY,

Respondent.



Jacqueline Gonzalez, petitioner, *pro se*

Julie L. Friedberg, Esq., for respondent (Thelen Reid & Priest, LLP)

Record Closed: December 16, 2005

Decided: December 19, 2005

BEFORE PATRICIA M. KERINS, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on July 21, 2005, for determination as a contested case, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15* and *N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13*.

The parties have agreed to a settlement and have prepared a Settlement Agreement indicating the terms thereof, which is attached and fully incorporated herein.

I have reviewed the record and the terms of settlement and I **FIND**:

The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures or their representatives' signatures.

2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law

I **CONCLUDE** that this agreement meets the requirements of *N.J.A.C. 17:27-19.1* and that the settlement should be approved. I approve the settlement and therefore **ORDER** that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be concluded.

I hereby **FILE** my initial decision with the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10*.

12-19-05
DATE

Patricia M. Kerins
PATRICIA M. KERINS, ALJ

Receipt Acknowledged:

12/22/05
DATE

[Signature]
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mailed to Parties

DATE
'slf

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

In the Matter of **Jacqueline Gonzalez v. Jersey
Central Power & Light Company Billing Dispute**

: BPU Docket No. EC05040347U
: OAL Docket No. PUCCC 04998-2005S
:
: **STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT**

This Stipulation of Settlement is hereby made and executed as of the ____ day of December, 2005, by and between Jacqueline Gonzalez and Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L"), in full and final resolution, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, of all factual and legal issues in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

(1) When submitting her annual application for the federal Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, Ms. Gonzalez will also apply for the statewide Universal Service Program. As a Universal Service Program participant, Ms. Gonzalez will be eligible to participate in the Fresh Start Program. Upon receiving notice of qualification for the Universal Service Program, Ms. Gonzalez will notify JCP&L of her qualification for the program.

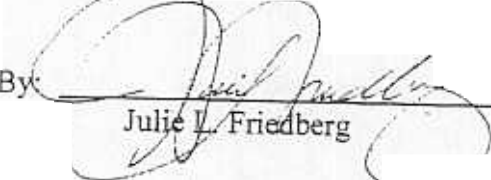
(2) Beginning with the December 2005 bill for electric service to Ms. Gonzalez's current residence, to be issued on or about December 12, 2005, provided Ms. Gonzalez pays her current basic charges in full for a period of 12 months (minus any energy assistance benefits for she receives, including Universal Service Program and LIHEAP benefits), the current amount past due and owing on her account, \$2,019.38, will be deemed paid in full.

(3) Ms. Gonzalez will be provided with a direct contact at JCP&L, with whom Ms. Gonzalez may speak directly regarding any questions or concerns that she may have going forward. As of this date, Ms. Gonzalez's contact will be Ms. Weslie Booth, who can be reached at (732) 714-2866.

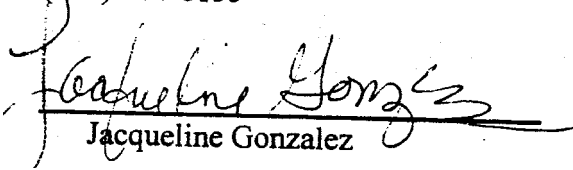
WHEREFORE, Jacqueline Gonzalez and JCP&L, intending hereby to be legally bound, have duly executed this Stipulation of Settlement, and do respectfully submit this Stipulation of Settlement to the Honorable Patricia L. Kerins, A.L.J. and request that Judge Kerins issue an Initial Decision adopting and approving this Stipulation of Settlement in its entirety in accordance with the terms hereof.

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By:


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Jacqueline Gonzalez